

COMMENT ON THE TYPE-SPECIES OF *LEPTOCORISA*

LATREILLE, 1829. Z.N.(S.) 1589

(see volume 20, pages, 435-437)

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Although I agree with the validation of *Leptocorisa* Latreille, 1829, and the suppression of *Leptocorixa* Berthold, 1827, I disagree with China and Ahmad as to the type-species of *Leptocorisa* Latreille, 1829. In my opinion it was not a generic name published originally without included species as it was published expressly as a replacement name for *Gerris* Fabricius, 1803, nec 1794. This is proved beyond any doubt by the footnote in Latreille, 1829 : 197, which China and Ahmad quote in their application. That action of Latreille was perfectly in accordance with Article 60b of the Code. That Latreille in 1829 was clearly aware of the nomenclatorial situation in this case is shown also by the fact that in 1810 he fixed *Cimex lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, as type-species for *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794, and that in the above mentioned footnote in 1829 he expressly excluded *Cimex vagabundus* Linnaeus, 1758, from his *Leptocorisa*. Thus, the species originally included in *Leptocorisa* Latreille, 1829, are those standing under *Gerris* Fabricius, 1803, with the exception of *Gerris vagabundus* (Linnaeus, 1758), i.e. not less than eight nominal species. Under Article 67h and 67i(i) of the Code, only from among these eight species can a type-species for *Leptocorisa* Latreille, 1829, be selected. The type-species in question has been selected subsequently, in 1873, in an indirect way, by elimination, by Stål, who was the first author to divide the genus *Leptocorisa* Latreille, 1829, into subgenera, and who left on that occasion in the nominate subgenus, only *Leptocorisa filiformis* (Fabricius, 1775) = *Cimex filiformis* Fabricius, 1775, of the species originally included under *Gerris* Fabricius 1803 nec 1794.

REPLY BY W. E. CHINA

Since *Gerris* Fabricius, 1803, is not a junior homonym of *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794, *Leptocorisa* Latreille, 1829, cannot be regarded as a replacement name. If it were *Leptocorisa* would take the same type-species as *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794 (that is *Cimex lacustris* Linnaeus, 1758, designated by Latreille, 1810) and would become a synonym of *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794. This would cause lamentable confusion between the Water-Skaters (Gerridae) and the Rice-Bugs (Coreidae).

Even if, as Jaczewski maintains, Latreille 1829 intended to give a name to the taxon *Gerris* Fabricius, 1803, as restricted from *Gerris* Fabricius, 1794, by the transfer of all but six of the original 22 species to other genera and the addition of three other species, the type-species of his *Leptocorisa* could not be one of the species included in *Gerris* by Fabricius in 1803. Article 69a(i) states that "the 'originally included species' comprise only those actually cited by name in the newly established nominal genus". Since Latreille cited no actual species by name (except for the exclusion of *vagabundus* Fabricius) his genus *Leptocorisa* is described without species and therefore the first species to be subsequently referred to it (i.e. *Leptocorisa flavida* Guérin, 1830) becomes the type-species by subsequent monotypy.

The so-called type selection by Stål, 1873, mentioned by Jaczewski is invalid as the Code does not recognise type-species designation by restriction or elimination. A species which has been designated type-species of another genus is still available as type-species of the genus in which it was originally placed.

Distant's 1902 (*Fauna Brit. Ind.*, Rhyn. 1 : 409) designation of *Cimex tipuloides* De Geer, 1773, and Van Duzee's, 1916 (*Check List Hemipt. Amer. north of Mexico*: 13) designation of *Gerris varicornis* Fabricius, 1803, as type-species of *Leptocorisa* are both antedated by Guérin's monotypic reference to *Leptocorisa flavida* Guérin. Fortunately the latter is a subjective synonym of *Gerris varicornis* Fabricius, 1803, designated by Van Duzee, 1916, which Ahmad has shown from examination of the types to be a subjective synonym of *Cimex acuta* Thunberg.